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Storytime™

The Summer Issue



COMEDY CRABS! Can you do
the crab walk this summer?

The Little Mermaid

**Hercules and the Lion, Not-So-Silly Sam,
What Katy Did & a fun animal poem!**

“Leaping streams and jumping rocks in stripey pink and purple socks”

Sunny stories for summer days!

Whatever your plans this summer,
we'll take you places. Come to ancient
Greece, the beach, under the sea, on a
picnic and to an imagination zoo!

This issue belongs to:

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ILLUSTRATORS:

Zhanna Mendel 🌀 The Crab Walk
Ricardo Fernandez 🌀 Hercules and the Lion
Paco Sordo 🌀 A Feast of Cobwebs
Martuka 🌀 The Little Mermaid
Kate Alizadeh 🌀 In the Summer
Francesco Zito 🌀 Not-So-Silly Sam
Marco Guadalupi 🌀 What Katy Did



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The Crab Walk

It was a clear, sunny day, so a mummy crab decided to allow her baby crab out of the rock pool for the first time.

Mummy crab perched on a rock with her friend, the seagull, and watched her baby clamber out through the seaweed and over the rocks, and then scuttle sideways across the sand. The baby crab was so excited by the new sights and sounds around her and the sensation of the soft sand beneath her claws, she whooped for joy. Round and round in circles she went with her speedy sideways scurry. What an adventure!

“Oh dear!” sighed the mummy crab to the seagull. “How clumsy and awkward she looks! How embarrassing! Please excuse us.”



The mother shouted to her excited little baby, "No, no, dear! That's not how it's done. Don't you know the proper, grown-up way to walk? The way the seagulls do it? You have to walk forwards with your toes pointed out a little, not sideways like that!"

The little crab was surprised to hear it, as walking sideways felt so normal. "Okay, Mummy, I didn't know. I'll try my hardest." And she darted away.

As mummy crab chatted with the seagull, the baby crab tried to walk forwards, but her little claws just couldn't manage it. No matter how hard she tried, she went sideways.

A few hours later, exhausted by the effort, she returned to her mother.

"Mummy, I'm so sorry, but I just can't walk forwards like you told me to. Perhaps you could show me how to do it and I can try to copy you?"

"Very well," said mummy crab, and she made her way over the rocks to the sand. Once there, she tried to put one claw in front of the other, but it was much harder than she realised. Her claws soon got tangled up and, before she knew it, she had fallen flat on her face in the sand! ➡



As she pushed herself up again, she saw her baby's puzzled face and blushed with embarrassment. "Perhaps sideways walking isn't so bad, after all," she smiled. And, together, they sideways-scuttled their way back to the rock pool.

That day, mummy crab learnt that you shouldn't tell others what to do until you've tried it for yourself! 🌀



Did You Know?

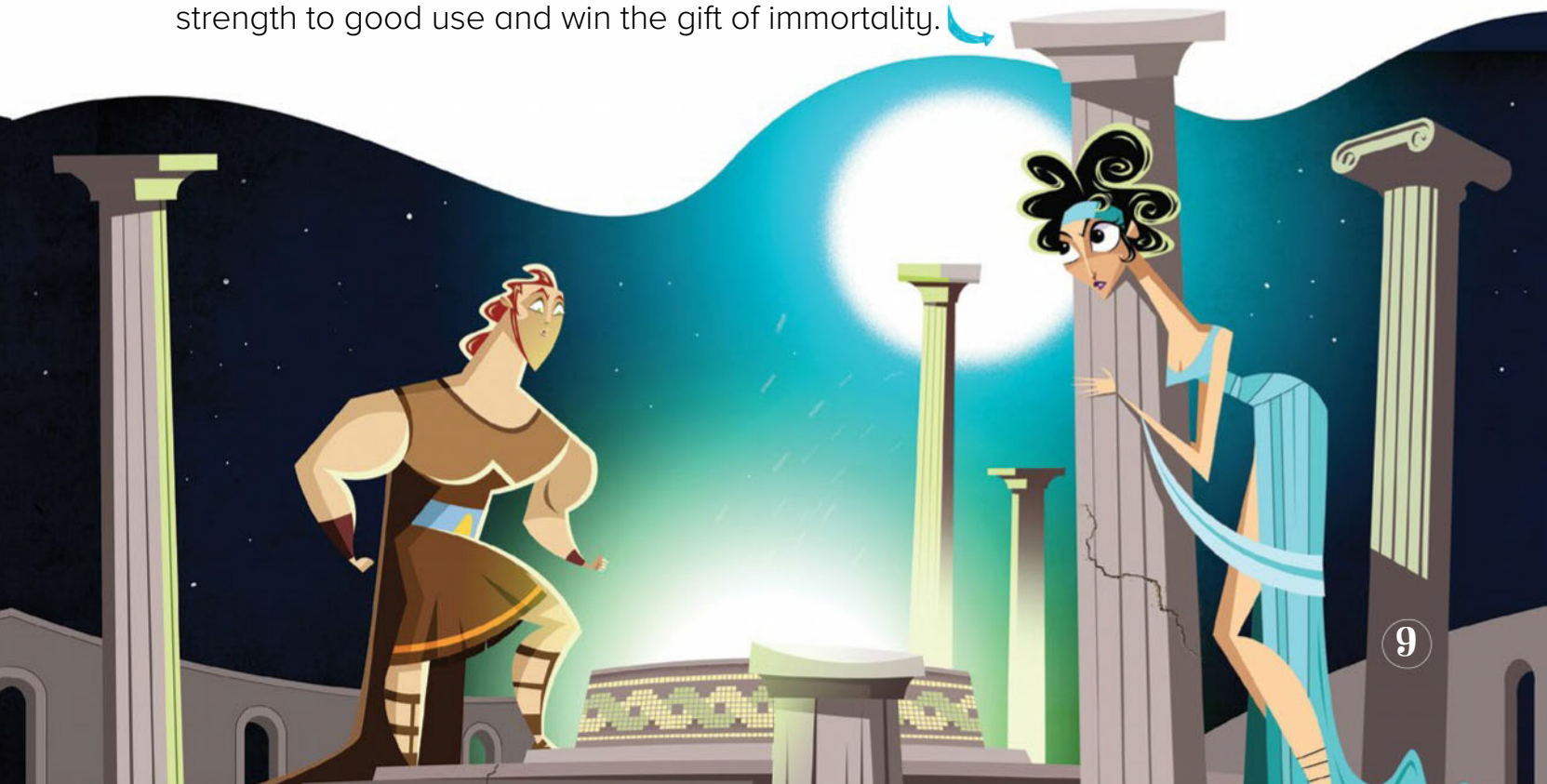
Crabs have 10 legs, including their two big claws at the front. Their legs don't bend the same way as human legs, which is why they can only walk sideways, and not forwards or backwards.

Hercules and the Lion

Hercules was a very special young man – his mother was human, but his father was the powerful god Zeus. This made Hercules a demigod or half-god.

This meant that Hercules had extraordinary strength and, sometimes, a temper to match. What he didn't know was that his fits of anger were caused by the goddess Hera, who was the wife of Zeus and had always been jealous of Hercules. For a long time, Hera had secretly been using her powers to get Hercules into trouble.

As he grew older, Hercules became so worried by his outbursts of rage that he visited his local temple for advice. The oracle there told him that he must serve the cruel and cold-hearted King Eurystheus for twelve years. In that time, if he could complete the missions set for him by the king, he would put his anger and strength to good use and win the gift of immortality.



Before Hercules arrived at the king's palace, Hera visited Eurystheus and secretly devised some terrible tasks for the demigod to complete. She called the tasks the 'Twelve Labours' and was certain that they would finish off Hercules for good.

The first labour was to slay a lion that had been terrorising the hills of Nemea for some time. This wasn't just any lion – the Nemean lion had a golden coat as hard as armour and claws so sharp they could slice through the toughest shield.

This fearsome lion was well known for preying on families. Many had tried to kill the lion before and none had succeeded. It was thought to be an impossible task.

When Hercules arrived at court, King Eurystheus snarled, "Bring me the skin of the Nemean lion, or there will be consequences..."



Think About It!

The reason so many heroes failed to slay the Nemean lion was that it couldn't be killed by the weapon of a mortal – it had to belong to a demigod, like Hercules, or a god. Can you think of three things as tough as the Nemean lion?

Armed with his bow, arrows and a club, Hercules set off for Nemea.



For several days and nights, he followed the deadly beast's tracks through the trees. Hercules hardly dared go to sleep, for fear that the lion would attack him.

At last, one evening, he caught sight of the lion deep in the forest. He let his arrows fly, but was shocked to see them bounce off the lion's tough coat without even making a mark. The lion roared with anger and thrashed about, looking for its attacker, but Hercules stayed well out of sight.

When the lion finally skulked away, Hercules stealthily tracked it until he saw it withdraw into a cave. Hercules checked around the cave and found a second entrance. Using his great strength, he rolled a gigantic boulder across the opening to trap the lion inside, then he bravely entered the dark lair armed with his courage and with his weapons at the ready.

Hercules crept into the depths of the cave and tiptoed right up to the mighty lion, then bashed it over the head with his club. The lion was stunned, but not knocked out, and it leapt to its feet,

let out a thunderous roar and pounced at Hercules.



Just in the nick of time, brave Hercules grabbed the lion's mane and wrapped his huge, muscular arms around its neck in a powerful stranglehold. He held on tightly until he felt the lion's body become limp. The vicious beast, at last, was dead.



After the dreadful deed was done, Hercules tried to cut away the lion's coat for King Eurystheus, but its skin

was so tough, no blade could slice through it. He was about to give up and carry the enormous beast home, when he saw one of the lion's claws glint in the light. Hercules grabbed it and, in no time, he was able to cut away the magnificent golden pelt.

He carried the lion's skin all the way back to King Eurystheus and, as he drew nearer to the palace gates, Hercules decided to celebrate his victory by draping the golden coat over his shoulders.



When King Eurystheus saw the dreadful Nemean lion coming towards him, he thought he was under attack. He was so terribly frightened, he dashed across his throne room and leapt into a large pot to hide!

Hercules the hero had completed the first of his twelve impossible labours for this cowardly king, and he wondered what new challenges might lie ahead. 🌀

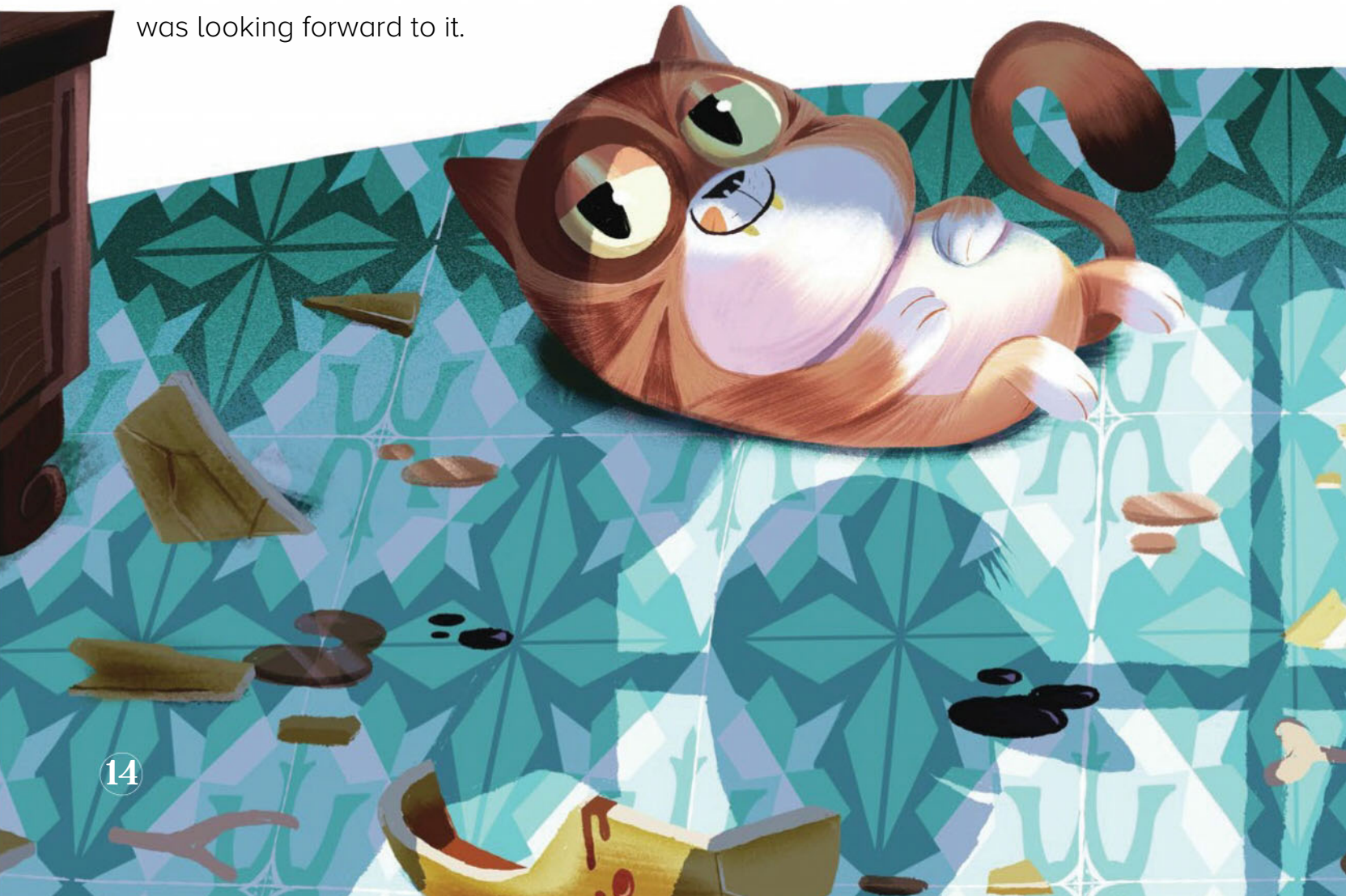


When Hercules was a baby, the goddess Hera sent some snakes to attack him in his cot. He was so strong, even then, that he crushed the snakes in his bare hands with ease! In both Greek and Roman mythology, Hercules is thought to be the greatest hero who ever existed.

A Feast of Cobwebs

One Sunday, after a week of hard work, a husband and his wife decided to treat themselves. “Let’s forget the housework,” they said. “Let’s have a day off and have a feast!”

So they went to the market in Venice, where they lived, and bought themselves a big fat chicken. On the way home, they bumped into their neighbour and invited him to dinner too. “I’ll bring a nice tart for pudding!” said the neighbour. Everyone was looking forward to it.



At home, they took garlic and herbs from their garden and put them in a big pot with the chicken, then they went out for a nice walk, leaving their cat and dog in the kitchen.

They had been gone a few minutes, when the dog sidled up to the oven and said, “Mmmm... that smells good.” The cat miaowed in agreement.

“What a delicious smell it is,” sighed the dog. “Do you think you could push the lid off with your claws so we can enjoy it even more?”

The cat stalked cautiously up to the pot and prodded at the lid with its claws until it slid off and clattered

noisily on the stove. Then the cat leant into the pot and took a deep sniff, and the dog’s mouth watered.

“Do you think you could reach into the pot and catch the chicken in your claws?” suggested the dog.

The cat hooked the juicy chicken on its claws and threw it on the floor. The dog yapped with excitement and the cat purred with pride.

“Let’s have half each,” said the cat, and so that’s what they did, and they ate until their tummies felt fit to burst!

When there was nothing left but bones, they lay happily side by side, licking their lips. ➡



Then suddenly the dog leapt up. “Oh no! I can hear our owners. They’ll be so cross when they find out we’ve eaten their dinner. We must hide!”

So the dog and the cat ran around frantically looking for somewhere to hide. They ran under the bed, but it was too high and too easy to see them. They ran behind the curtains, but the curtains were too short and you could see their legs. They ran to the sofa, but it was too low and they couldn’t squeeze under it.

Suddenly, the cat spotted a huge cobweb hanging from the beams of the ceiling. The cat ran up the

stairs and gave a huge, desperate leap, straight into the cobweb.

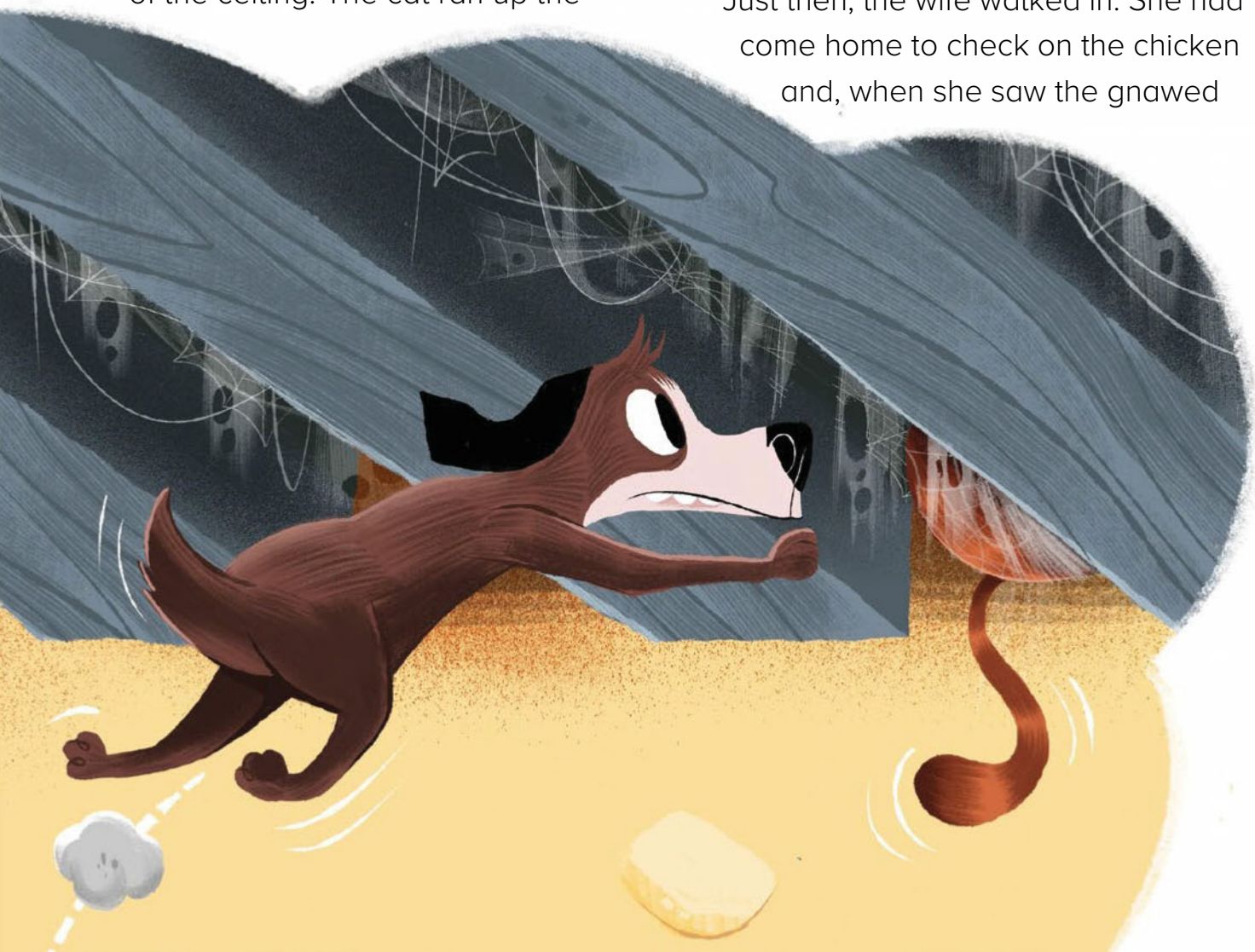
“What are you doing?” said the dog. “I can see your tail sticking out! What a silly place to hide!”

But the cat couldn’t move – it was stuck fast in the cobweb!

“I’ll come and pull you out,” said the dog. So it ran up the stairs and leapt at the cobweb, but instead of helping the cat, it too got stuck! No matter how much it wriggled, the poor dog was stranded there with the cat.



Just then, the wife walked in. She had come home to check on the chicken and, when she saw the gnawed





Locate It!

This Italian folk tale is set in Venice. Can you find it on a map? Do some research and write down five fun facts about this amazing Italian city.

bones on the floor, she guessed straight away what had happened.

“Dog! Cat!” she yelled. “When I find you, you are in big trouble!”

And she ran round the house looking for them. She looked under the bed, behind the curtain and under the sofa, but they were nowhere to be seen. But as she came down the stairs, she noticed the dog’s tail and the cat’s tail sticking out of a cobweb in the ceiling.

“What are you doing up there, you naughty animals?” she cried. “Just you wait till I get you!”

She stood on the kitchen table and jumped up to grab the cat and the dog, but she got stuck too! And the more she wriggled, the more she got wrapped up in the cobweb.

Soon, her husband came home too, and when he saw the chicken bones scattered across the kitchen floor and couldn’t find his wife, cat or dog, he was very confused.

He looked around the house. He searched under the bed, behind the curtain and even under the sofa, but he couldn’t find them anywhere.

He was scratching his head, when he heard a muffled cry coming from the ceiling. It was his wife’s voice and, when he looked up, he saw a cat’s tail, a dog’s tail and his wife’s shoe dangling out of a huge cobweb.

“What on earth is going on?” he cried. ➡

The husband climbed up on the table to free his wife and pets, but it wasn't high enough, so he jumped up to grab them and he too got stuck in the cobweb! And no matter how much he wriggled, he couldn't free himself.



Soon enough their neighbour knocked at the door, all ready for his hearty feast. When nobody answered, the neighbour cried, "Hey, friends, I'm here for dinner! I made a delicious tart for you!" He knocked again, but still nobody answered.



He pushed open the door and saw the chicken bones on the floor, but his friends were nowhere to be seen. Then he heard cries from above and when he saw the cat's tail, dog's tail, wife's shoe and husband's knee sticking out of a huge cobweb in the ceiling, he burst into laughter.

He climbed onto the table and was just tall enough to reach the husband, so he pulled and he pulled with all his might, until the cat fell onto the dog's shoulders, the dog fell onto the wife's shoulders, the wife fell onto the husband's shoulders and the husband fell onto the neighbour's shoulders – and the huge cobweb fell over all five of them.

And that is why you should always do your housework!



The Little Mermaid

By Hans Christian Andersen

Once upon a time, there lived a Sea King in a spectacular coral palace at the bottom of the ocean. He lived with his six mermaid daughters.

Of his six daughters, the youngest was the quietest. While her sisters played, she tended to the special garden she had planted, which was filled with beautiful sea flowers. Her favourite part of the garden was a statue of a man she had found in a shipwreck. She would sit by the statue for many hours, dreaming of the world above the sea and what it might be like to be human.

Sometimes, her grandmother would tell her tales of the places she had seen in her youth – tales of animals, magnificent buildings and fragrant blooms; bathing on warm beaches in the moonlight, and listening to human voices in the distance.



“I wish I could see it,” sighed the little mermaid, and her grandmother would always give the same answer: “Soon enough, my dear, soon enough.”

It was true – in a few years, on her fifteenth birthday, the little mermaid would finally be allowed to swim above the surface of the sea.



The years passed and the little mermaid watched with envy as her sisters each turned fifteen and were allowed to see the human world. They always returned with wide smiles and sparkling eyes.

“How was it? Is it beautiful? Did you see a human?” asked the mermaid, but her sisters just answered: “Soon enough, my dear, soon enough.”

The little mermaid thought she might explode with curiosity!

At last, the day came when the little mermaid turned fifteen. She could barely wait to swim above the waves, but her grandmother took her to one side. “You deserve to look special today, my dear.” And she placed a stunning pearl tiara on the excited mermaid’s head. “Now off you go!”

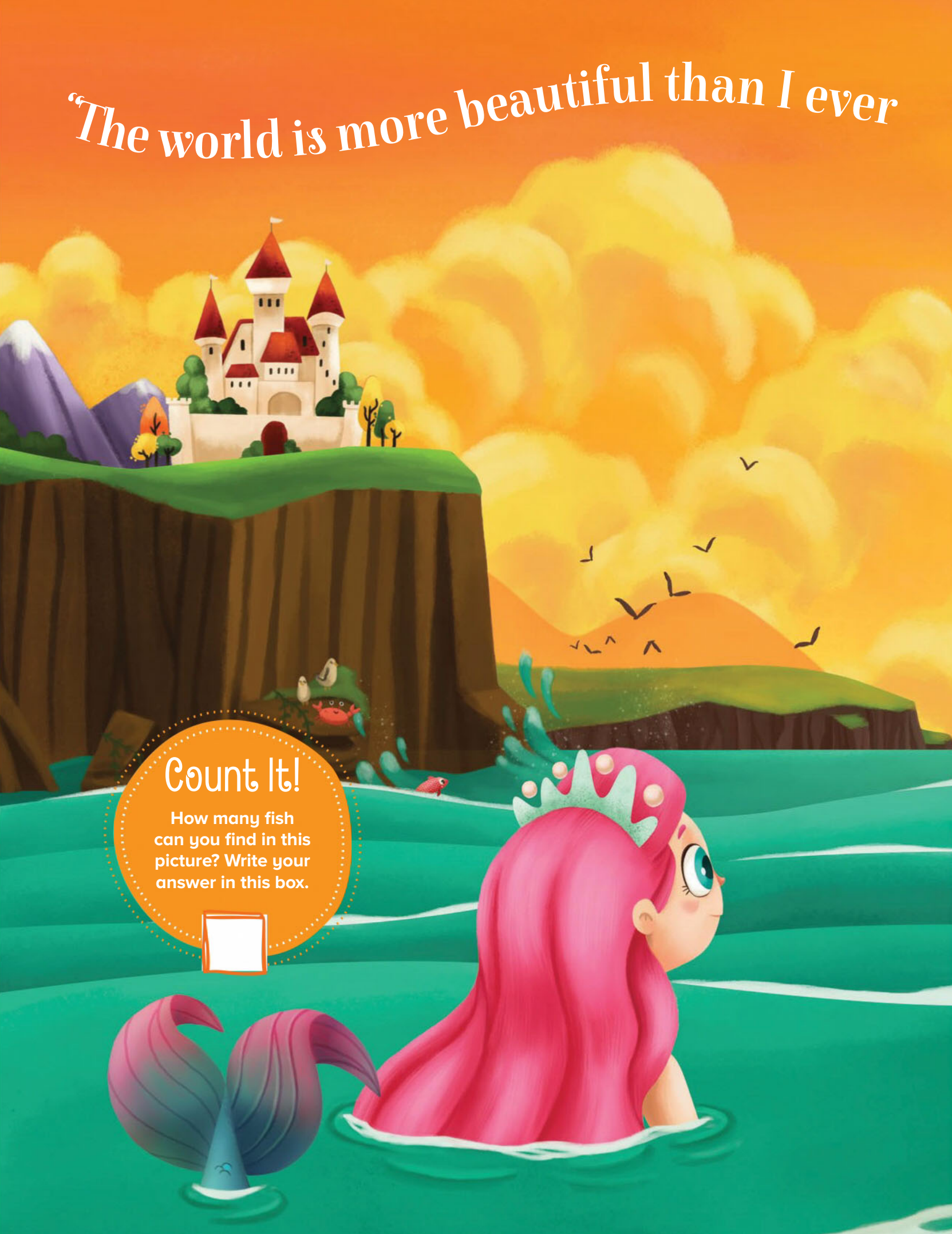
The little mermaid soared eagerly towards the surface and, when she finally saw the world above, she was astounded by its beauty. The sun was setting over a calm sea, turning everything vivid orange and hot pink. The clouds in the sky seemed to be lined with gold and, not too far away, there was a splendid ship, its sails fluttering gently in a light breeze. ➡



"The world is more beautiful than I ever

Count It!

How many fish
can you find in this
picture? Write your
answer in this box.



imagined!" smiled the little mermaid.



Answer: There are 17 fish.

She heard music drifting across the water and swam towards the ship to get a better look. As she drew closer, she saw that it was decorated with colourful bunting and lanterns.

She spied through a window a ballroom filled with smartly dressed people, all dancing, laughing and talking. They were celebrating the sixteenth birthday of a young prince.

When the little mermaid caught sight of the prince, she was enchanted and couldn't take her eyes away. She stayed for many hours watching him, as he smiled and talked to his guests.



It was very late when the sea became restless. Most of the guests had gone to bed, but the prince was still on the deck, gazing at the stars.

The sea began to churn and gloomy clouds gathered in the sky. Lightning was fast approaching and ear-splitting thunder startled the little mermaid. The ship began to rock back and forth, and soon the waves seemed as high as mountains. They crashed into the deck so that the mermaid could no longer see the prince. Moments later, the ship was smashed to pieces and the little mermaid had to dodge the planks that showered down around her.

Just then, a flash of lightning lit up the scene and the little mermaid saw the prince plunge into the depths. She dived down and, when she found him, his body was limp and his eyes were closed – he was on the edge of life.

The little mermaid lifted him to the surface and let the waves carry them to a distant shore.

Spot It!

There's a crab hiding on every double page of this story. Can you spot it? Tick this box when you've found it.



She laid the prince on the sparkling sands of a small bay and kissed him gently on the cheek. Then, she left him there and hid behind a rock, hoping that someone would find him.

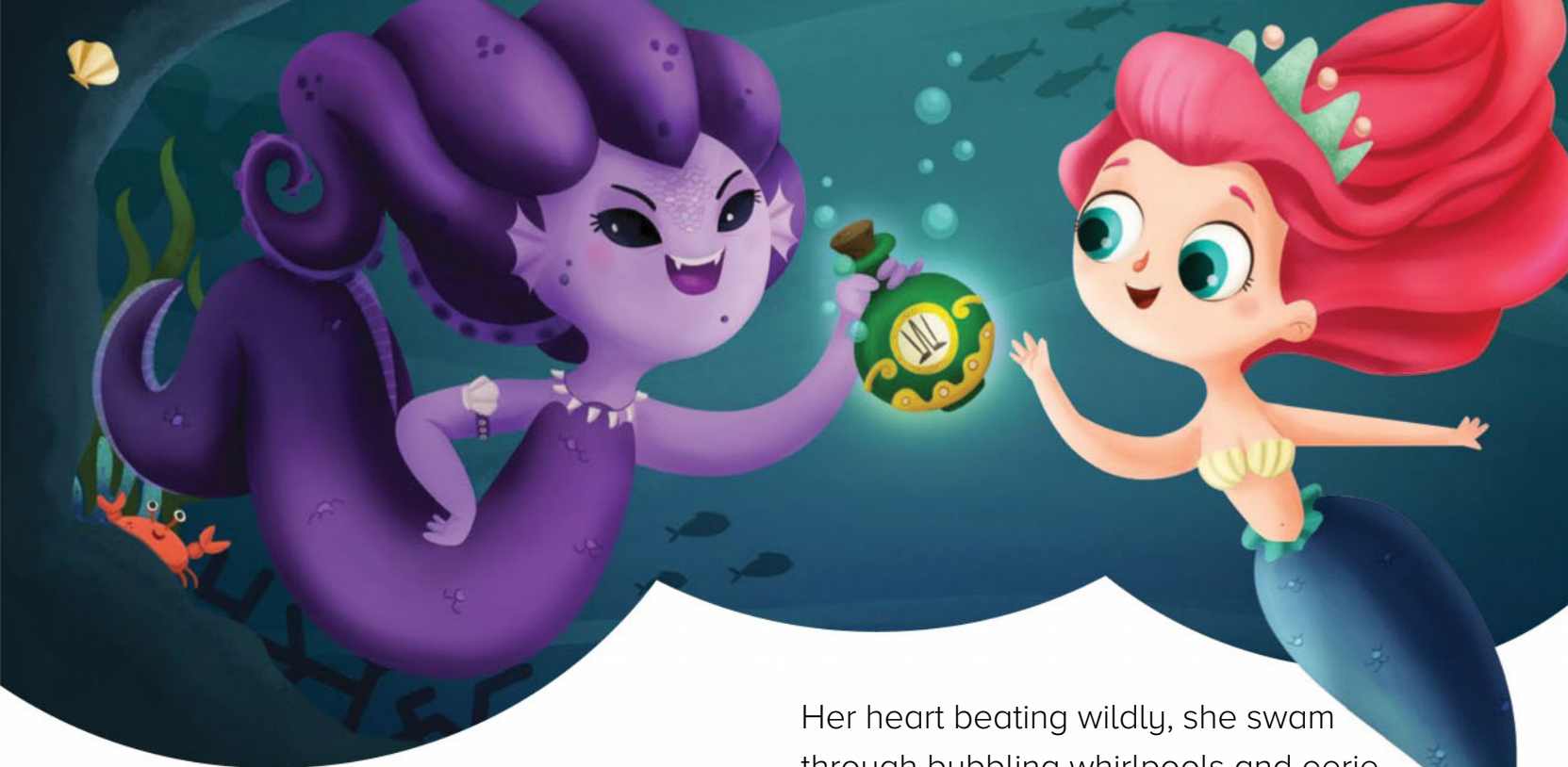
Later in the morning, a pretty girl came down to the beach and found him lying there. The prince woke up and smiled at the girl, thanking her for saving him. The little mermaid was happy that he was safe, but sad that he didn't know who had really saved his life. She swam back to her father's palace feeling tired and troubled – she had fallen in love with the prince, and he didn't even know she existed.

For the next few weeks, the little mermaid was so unhappy, her sisters began to worry about her. Eventually, she told them her secret.

“I know where your prince lives!” said her eldest sister. “I’ve seen his palace. I’ll take you there.”

So the six sisters swam to the prince's palace, which stood white and shining by the sea. The little mermaid was so happy to see him. From that day, she swam outside his palace every night so she could catch a glimpse of the prince standing on his balcony. ➞





Though she was overjoyed to see him, it wasn't enough – deep down, she yearned with all her heart to be human, just like him.

One day, she asked her grandmother whether it was possible. "Only if a human falls in love with you," she replied. "But that has never happened. They find our tails quite ugly, you see."

A tear rolled down the little mermaid's cheek. She knew she could never be happy if she didn't try to win the heart of her prince.



That night, she secretly travelled to the most fearsome place of all – the cavernous home of the Sea Witch.

Her heart beating wildly, she swam through bubbling whirlpools and eerie kelp forests, dodging venomous sea serpents and electric eels. When she finally reached the entrance to the cavern, the Sea Witch was already waiting for her.

"I've been expecting you," she said in a cold voice. "What you want will bring you only sorrow, but I will give it to you if you will give me a little something in return."

"What do you need?" asked the little mermaid, trembling.

"Your voice!" cackled the Sea Witch.

"But how will I tell the prince that it was I who saved him?"

"Not my problem!" said the Sea Witch. "You'll think of something."

And so the deal was done. The Sea Witch gave the little mermaid a potion and, in return, she gave her voice to the old crone.

“When you reach land,” said the witch, “drink the potion and you will have human legs. But be warned – it hurts!”

The little mermaid swam away as fast as she could and, when she reached the shore by the prince’s palace, she swallowed the foul-tasting potion. The transformation into a human was very painful, so painful that she passed out.



When she woke, she found that she was being carried by the prince into the palace. Her heart skipped a beat.

He laid her down and asked who she was, but the poor mermaid couldn’t reply – she had the human legs she longed for, but no voice. She looked at the prince with pleading eyes, but he didn’t recognise her.

When she had recovered, she walked and danced so elegantly that the king and queen were sure that this mystery girl must be of royal blood. They sent messengers far and wide to discover the identity of the missing wordless princess, but they had no luck.

The little mermaid was treated well and became the prince’s constant companion, but as she was unable to talk, she could never tell anyone her story – or truly win his heart. ➡



A year went by and the little mermaid was still a mystery. With no proof that she was royal, the king and queen would never consider her a suitable bride for the prince, so they set out to find a love match for him. The little mermaid despaired to hear the news.

They soon set off on a voyage to meet the daughter of a nearby king. “She could never be as dear to me as you,” said the prince to the little mermaid, and her heart swelled with hope again.

When they reached the harbour of that faraway city, the king and his daughter stood waiting for them.

The princess was beautiful and looked strangely familiar. The little mermaid quickly realised that she was the girl who had found the prince washed up on the beach. The prince gasped, “It’s you! You’re the one who saved me!”

The little mermaid wanted to cry out, “No! I saved you, dear prince!” But not a sound passed through her lips.

She saw how the prince looked at the princess and knew that she saw true love in his eyes. The prince would never be hers. Her heart truly broken, she turned away to look at the sea.

At that moment, her five sisters popped up above the waves and beckoned her towards them. The little mermaid knew then where she truly belonged, and she gracefully dived off the edge of the harbour into the ocean, never to be seen by the prince again. 6



In the Summer

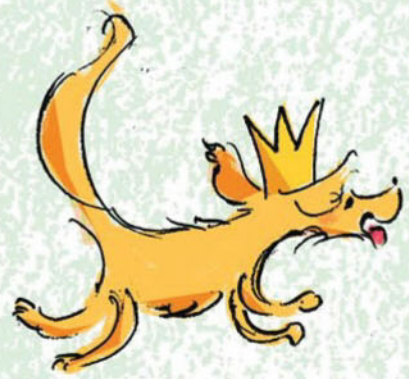
By Thomas Hood

In the summer when I go to bed,
The sun still streaming overhead,
My bed becomes so small and hot
With sheets and pillow in a knot,
And then I lie and try to see
The things I'd really like to be.

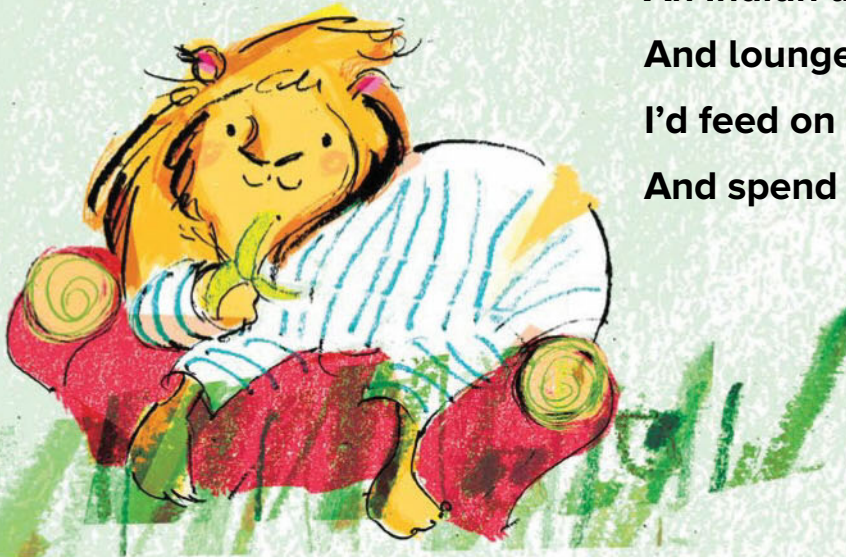
I think I'd be a glossy cat,
A little plump, but not too fat.
I'd never touch a bird or mouse,
I'm much too busy round the house. ➡



And then a fierce and hungry hound,
The king of dogs for miles around;
I'd chase the postman just for fun
To see how quickly he could run.



Perhaps I'd be a crocodile
Within the marshes of the Nile
And paddle in the river-bed
With dripping mud-caps on my head.



An Indian lion then I'd be
And lounge about on my settee;
I'd feed on nothing but bananas
And spend all day in my pyjamas.

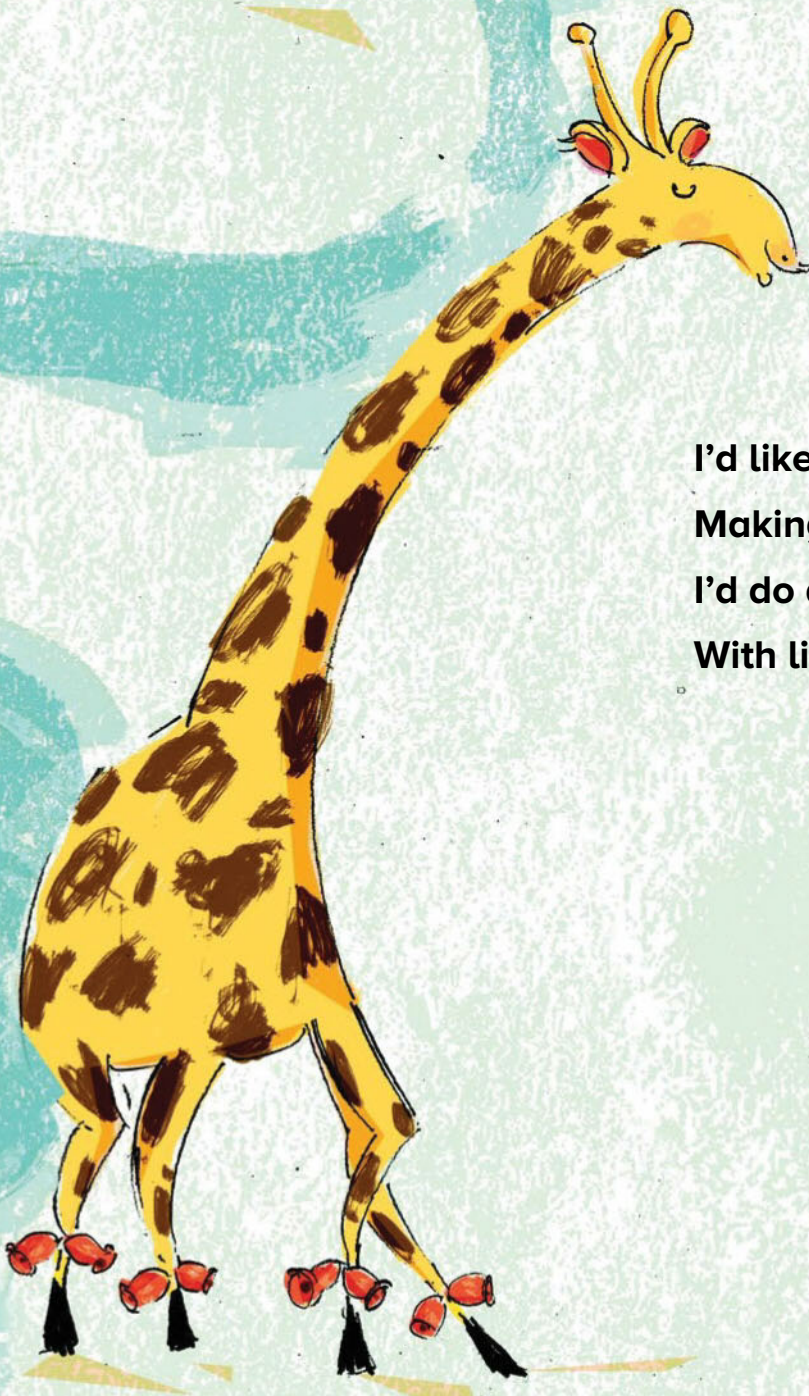




And then I'd be a foxy fox
Streaking through the hollyhocks,
Horse or hound would ne'er catch me
I'm a master of disguise, you see.



Or maybe next a mountain goat
With shaggy whiskers at my throat,
Leaping streams and jumping rocks
In stripey pink and purple socks.



I'd like to be a tall giraffe,
Making lots of people laugh,
I'd do a tap dance in the street
With little bells upon my feet. ➡



I think I'd be a chimpanzee
With musical ability,
I'd play a silver clarinet
Or form a Monkey String Quartet.

But then before I really know
Just what I'd be or where I'd go,
My bed becomes so wide and deep
And all my thoughts are fast asleep.

Rhyme It!

What animal will you pretend to be in bed tonight? What's your special skill? What will you wear? Why not make up your own extra verse for this poem? Make sure it's funny!



Not-So-Silly Sam

There was once a king and a queen who had an only child – a princess – who they both doted on.

They loved her so much, they barely let her out of their sight and she rarely left the castle, so it was a great surprise when the princess suddenly had a baby. The king was outraged and demanded to know who the father was, but the princess just answered, “I don’t know, Father. The baby just appeared – like a gift!” ➡



But the king wouldn't rest until he had discovered the true identity of the father. He consulted the wisest minds in the land, and then summoned the wealthiest suitors to the castle. He also told the princess to come along with her new baby.

When everybody was there, the king announced, "Now I will present this child with an enchanted lemon, given to me by a wise old wizard. Whoever the child gives it to is his father and I will know once and for all!"

What nobody realised was that Silly Sam had managed to sneak into the castle grounds, unnoticed. Now, Silly Sam was so called because he was very shy and would stoop over so that people didn't look at him. Also, he wasn't very good at making conversation. Because of his shyness everybody thought he was stupid and they called him names. But today, when Sam passed the new baby's crib, the little baby giggled and immediately handed him the enchanted lemon.



The king gasped, the queen wailed and the princess turned pale. The king was so angry that someone like Silly Sam could be the father of the baby, he marched the princess, her baby and Silly Sam to the town quay, forced them into a large barrel and pushed them out to sea, completely ignoring the princess's pleas. The barrel bobbed away on the tide and soon they were far from land.

The princess began to sob. "You stupid man!" she wept. "You've ruined my life! You have nothing to do with my baby!"

"But I do," said Sam calmly. "One day, I wished that you would have a child – and my wish came true."

The princess didn't believe him. "Well, wish us some food, then. I'm hungry!" ➡



Silly Sam had simple tastes, so he wished for a plate of hot buttered potatoes. The princess was used to finer fare, but she was so hungry, she shared the plate with Sam and the potatoes tasted delicious. She thanked him and smiled.

“Now,” said Sam, “I wish for a fine ship to carry us safely to shore!” And, in a moment, they were both standing aboard a grand ship, fully crewed and laden with supplies. The princess looked at Sam in disbelief and the baby gurgled with delight.

They travelled across the sea, until they came to an uninhabited land.

As they stepped onto the shore, Sam said, “I wish for a castle.” And, quick as a flash, a splendid castle appeared with pearl-encrusted turrets. Servants came out and led Sam, the princess and her baby inside.

When they stepped into the great hall, Sam said quietly, “Now I wish for you to see me as the man I really am!” And nothing happened at all, except that Sam straightened up a little and smiled warmly at the princess, with a sparkle in his eyes. He gently took her hand in his.





Try It!

Why not take ten minutes to see how silly you can be? Hold a funny face competition, tell jokes, see who can make the strangest noises or craziest dance moves, or do animal impressions! Make sure that the grown-ups join in too! The silliest person gets a silly prize... like a lemon!



Far from home and the cruel bullies who had always said mean things to him, the princess realised what a good man Sam was. He had bright, alert eyes, which showed he had a quick mind, a generous smile, and he had been so kind on their journey together. In that instant, she fell in love with him.

There was no need for Sam to make his next wish – the two were married the next day and they lived together in harmony for several years.



Then, one day, an unexpected visitor arrived at their castle. It was the

princess's father. The princess knew it was him at once, but he didn't recognise his daughter or Sam, as he thought they had both drowned at sea years earlier.

They were fine hosts to the king and they treated him to a big banquet, but as he got ready to leave, Sam secretly placed a golden goblet in his pocket.

When the king was about to board his ship, Sam sent some guards to arrest him. The king was dragged back to the palace, all the time swearing his innocence. "I didn't steal it, I swear! It just appeared – like a gift!" ➡

“Perhaps we should believe you,” said the princess, smiling at her father. “You see, I know how horrible it is to be accused of something you haven’t done.”

Then she revealed her true identity to the king, who fell to his knees and begged for her forgiveness. He had missed his daughter terribly and had regretted his actions ever since he had banished her.

The princess and Sam forgave him and, from that day on, the king treated Sam like one of the family. And when the king died, Not-So-Silly Sam ruled over the land, and nobody called him names ever again – other than ‘Your Majesty’, of course! 🌀

Wish It!

Not-So-Silly Sam has the power to make wishes come true. If you had one wish, what would you wish for?



What Katy Did

By Susan Coolidge

Katy's name was Katy Carr. The house she lived in stood on the edge of the town of Burnet.

It was a large square house, white, with green blinds, and had a porch in front, over which roses and clematis grew. On one side of the house was an orchard; on the other side were woodpiles and barns, and an icehouse. Behind was a kitchen garden and a pasture with a brook and four cows.

There were six Carr children – four girls and two boys. Katy, the oldest, was twelve years old; little Phil, the youngest, was four, and the rest fitted in between.

Dr Carr, their Papa, was a dear, kind, busy man, who was away from home all day, and sometimes all night, taking care of sick people. The children hadn't any Mamma. She had died when Phil was a baby, four years before my story began. Katy could remember her pretty well; to the rest she was but a sad, sweet name.

In place of Mamma, there was Aunt Izzie, Papa's sister, who came to take care of them. ➡





**“Aunt Izzie was
a small woman,
sharp-faced and thin,
rather old-looking
and very particular
about everything.”**

Aunt Izzie was a small woman, sharp-faced and thin, rather old-looking, and very particular about everything.

She meant to be kind to the children, but they puzzled her much, because they were not a bit like herself when she was a child. Aunt Izzie had been a gentle, tidy little thing, who loved to sit and sew, and to be told that she was a good girl; whereas Katy tore her dress every day, hated sewing, and didn't care a button about being called 'good'. It was very perplexing to Aunt Izzie.

“Clover, go up stairs and wash your hands! Dorry, pick your hat off the floor and hang it on the nail! Not that nail – the third nail from the corner!” These were the kind of things Aunt Izzie was saying all day long.

I want to show you the Carrs, and I don't know that I could ever have a better chance than when five out of the six were perched on top of the icehouse, like chickens on a roost. This icehouse was one of their favourite places. It was only a low roof set over a hole in the ground.

Clover, next in age to Katy, sat in the middle. She was a sweet dumpling of a girl, with thick pigtails of light brown hair, and blue eyes, which seemed to hold tears, just ready to fall from under the blue. Everybody loved her, and she loved everybody, especially Katy, whom she looked up to as one of the wisest people in the world.

Pretty little Phil sat next on the roof to Clover, and she held him tight with her arm. Then came Elsie, a thin, brown

child of eight, with beautiful dark eyes, and crisp, short curls covering her small head. Poor little Elsie didn't seem to belong to either the older or the younger children. Her great ambition was to be allowed to go about with Katy and Clover and Cecy Hall, and to be permitted to put notes into the little post offices they were forever establishing in hidden places. But they used to tell her to "run away and play with the children", which hurt her feelings very much.

Dorry and Joanna sat on the two ends. Dorry was six years old: a pale, pudgy boy, with rather a solemn face, and smears on the sleeve of his jacket.

Joanna, whom the children called 'John' and 'Johnnie', was a square, splendid child, a year younger than Dorry; she had big brave eyes, and a wide rosy mouth, which always looked ready to laugh. These two were great friends, though Dorry seemed like a girl in boy's clothes, and Johnnie like a boy who, in a fit of fun, had borrowed his sister's frock. And now, as they all sat chattering and giggling, the window above opened and Katy's head appeared.

"Hurrray!" she cried. "Aunt Izzie says we may go. Hurry up, Clover, and get the things! Cecy and I will be down in a minute." ➡



The children jumped up gladly. Clover fetched a couple of baskets from the shed. Elsie ran for her kitten. Dorry and John loaded themselves with two sticks. Just as they were ready, Katy and Cecy Hall came into the yard.

I must tell you about Cecy. She was a great friend of the children's, and lived next door. Cecy spent two-thirds of her time at Dr. Carr's, and was like one of the family. She was a neat, pink-and-white girl, modest and prim in manner, with light shiny hair, which always kept smooth, and slim hands, which never looked dirty.

How different from my poor Katy! Katy's hair was forever in a snarl; her gowns were always catching on nails and tearing; and she was the longest girl that was ever seen. What she did to make herself grow, nobody could tell; but there she was – half a head taller than poor Aunt Izzie!

Whenever she stopped to think about her height she felt as if she were all legs and elbows, and angles. Happily, her head was so full of plans and schemes of all sorts that she didn't often remember how tall she was.

She was a dear, loving child, for all her careless habits, and made good resolutions every week, only unluckily she never kept any of them. She had fits of responsibility about the other children, and longed to set them a good example, but when the chance came, she generally forgot.



The place to which the children were going was a marshy thicket at the bottom of the field. In winter the ground was boggy, but in summer, it was all fresh and green, and full of wild roses and birds' nests.

Write It!

Can you write a description of yourself like the ones for the Carr children in our story? Use lots of awesome adjectives!



Narrow winding paths ran here and there. The children called it 'Paradise', and to them it seemed as full of adventure as any forest or fairyland.

"Which path shall we take?" asked Clover.

"Suppose we vote," said Katy. "I say the Pilgrim's Path and Hill of Difficulty."

"So do I!" chimed in Clover, who always agreed with Katy.

"The Path of Peace?" suggested Cecy.

"No, no! We want to go by Sassafras Path!" cried John and Dorry.

However, Katy, as usual, had her way. It was agreed that they should try Pilgrim's Path, then make a thorough exploration of the whole of their little kingdom. So in they marched, Katy and Cecy heading the procession.



"Oh, there is the dear Rosary, all safe!" cried the children, as they reached the top of the Hill of Difficulty and came upon a wild rosebush. To them, this 'Rosary' was a fascinating thing. They were always inventing stories about it. ➡



The Path of Peace got its name because of its darkness and coolness. A white flower grew there, which the children called Pollypods, because they didn't know the real name. They stayed a long while picking flowers, so when they had explored Toadstool Avenue, Rabbit Hollow, and the rest, the sun was over their heads, and it was already noon.



"I'm getting hungry," said Dorry.

"Oh, no, Dorry, you mustn't be hungry till the bower is ready!" cried the little girls, and they hastily built a bower. When it was done they all cuddled in underneath, and Katy lifted the lid of

the largest basket, while all the rest peeped to see what was inside.

First came ginger cakes, then slices of cold lamb, and last of all, a dozen hard-boiled eggs with thick bread and butter. Aunt Izzie had made lunches for Paradise before, you see.

Oh, how good everything tasted in that bower, with the fresh wind rustling, sunshine and sweet smells about them, and the birds singing overhead!

Each mouthful was a pleasure, and when the last crumb had vanished, Katy produced the second basket,



**To see WHAT KATY DID
next, turn to page 50!**

and there – oh, delightful surprise!
– were seven little pies, which tasted
like toffee and lemon peel, and all
sorts of good things. Seven sets of
teeth went to work and, in no time,
every bit of pie had disappeared.

“What shall we do now?” said Clover.

“Let’s play we’re grown up,” said
Cecy, “and tell what we mean to do.”

“I’d like to have a large house and a
splendiferous garden,” said Katy,

“and then you could all come and
live with me, and we would play in the
garden. And we’d never sew or knit, or
do anything we didn’t want to. That’s
what I’d like to be. But now I’ll tell you
what I mean to do.”

“Isn’t it the same thing?” asked Cecy.

“Oh, no!” replied Katy, “quite different;
for you see I mean to do something
grand. I don’t know what, yet, but
when I’m grown up I shall find out...”



storytime playbox

Hunt for animals, invent the perfect picnic, create a mythical lion, and play our mermaid maker game!

1 SLEEPY SAFARI

See if you can track down all the animals from this issue's poem.

T	G	N	T	A	O	G	I	Z	R	Y	G
Q	I	F	A	N	D	N	H	D	O	K	I
S	C	R	U	X	Y	H	S	Q	C	V	R
D	O	B	F	L	Q	N	Q	G	L	E	A
C	H	I	M	P	A	N	Z	E	E	L	F
R	T	Y	J	K	N	R	T	Y	N	I	F
F	L	A	E	F	X	A	B	Q	O	D	E
O	U	P	Z	O	P	U	Q	E	H	O	P
X	Z	S	C	H	A	O	G	B	A	C	O
D	C	T	A	F	M	Y	G	J	M	O	P
M	A	A	S	J	L	I	O	N	Y	R	T
C	R	J	B	R	E	Y	D	B	X	C	L

CAT
DOG
FOX

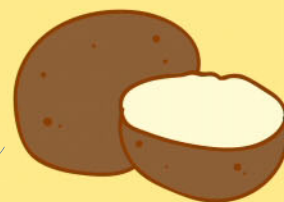
GOAT
LION
GIRAFFE

CROCODILE
CHIMPANZEE

2 Quick Quiz

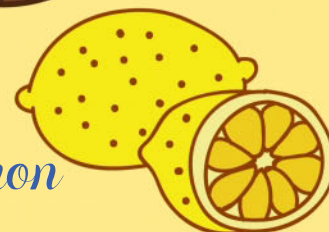
What does Not-So-Silly Sam wish for on his voyage? Circle it!

A
Potatoes



B
Barrel

C
Lemon



3

PERFECT PICNIC

Can you fill up this picnic basket with all your favourite treats, just like the one Katy and the rest of the Carr children had? Draw them and colour them in!

P

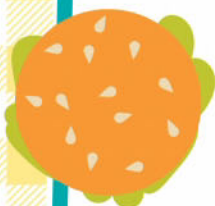
I

C

N

I

C



SAND PRINTS

**Which footprints belong to the crab?
Draw a line between the footprints
and the animals who made them.**



5 MAKE A CUPCAKE CASE LION

Transform a white paper fairy cake case or cupcake liner into a lion puppet and use it to act out our Hercules story.

- Flatten your cupcake case and dip it in yellow food colouring or paint it yellow. Let it dry out.
 - When it's dry, use a black marker pen, pencil or crayon to draw the lion's face in the centre. Stick on two googly eyes.
 - Paint a lollipop stick orange or yellow and stick the cupcake case to the top of the stick using glue or double-sided sticky tape.
- Now you can use it as a simple story puppet!**

TIP! Why not make two lions – one with a happy face and one with an angry face – so you can act out the story properly?



E							D		E
R	A	I	O	N					R
			E			T			
G									X
O									F
D									E
E									I
F	H	M	P	A	N	Z	E	E	F
A									E
R									I
I									
G	T	A	O	G					

ANSWERS: 1. Sleepy Safari – see right; 2. Quick Quiz – A, Potatoes; 4. Sand Prints – 1B, 2C, 3A.

LITTLE MERMAID MAKER

Can you turn this girl back into a mermaid so she can visit her family at the bottom of the ocean? Help give her a beautiful tail and shell bikini!

How to Play

All you need to play is a dice and some colouring pencils – or print out our free **Mermaid Maker** printable from storytimemagazine.com/free. To get started, just roll the dice. Each number on the dice matches a missing numbered section on the mermaid. If you roll a 1, colour in or stick on the first piece of shell bikini. Keep playing until you've rolled all six numbers and finished your mermaid. How quickly can you complete it? Time yourself!



Download our Mermaid Maker printable from: storytimemagazine.com/free

STORY MAGIC

Summer's here and that means dreaming of the seaside, splashing about with mermaids and visiting mystical midnight zoos!

More Magical Mermaids!

Inspired by this issue's fairy tale to read more mermaid stories? Here are three fishy tales we highly recommend!

© *The Singing Mermaid* by Julia Donaldson

With gorgeous glitter illustrations by Lydia Monks, this lovely rhyming story features a talented mermaid who is trapped by a cruel circus owner. Can she escape his evil clutches? (Macmillan Children's Books)

© *The Mermaid and the Shoe* by K.G. Campbell

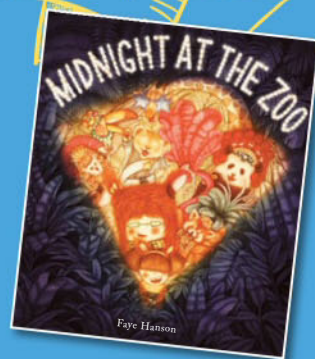
Minnow is a little mermaid who doesn't quite fit in with her beautiful, talented sisters. She wonders what her own talent is until she comes across a strange object. A perfect summer read. (Kids Can Press)

© *The Tail of Emily Windsnap* by Liz Kessler

A series for ages 8 and up, starring a girl who discovers she is half-mermaid. In her first adventure, she sets out to find her merman father. There are six books in total – great for the summer break! (Orion Children's Books)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Want a gorgeous book to get totally lost in this summer? Then *Midnight at the Zoo* by Faye Hanson is the perfect choice. Max and Mia discover what the animals get up to at night in the zoo – and it involves flouncing flamingoes, prancing pandas and more! Each illustration is bursting with so much detail, you can honestly look at this book for hours and still not see all there is to marvel at. A wonder! (Templar Books)



We have a copy of this amazing picture book to give away! Enter at storytimemagazine.com/win

WIN

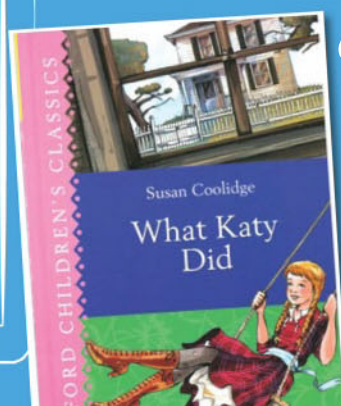
WIN BOOKS!

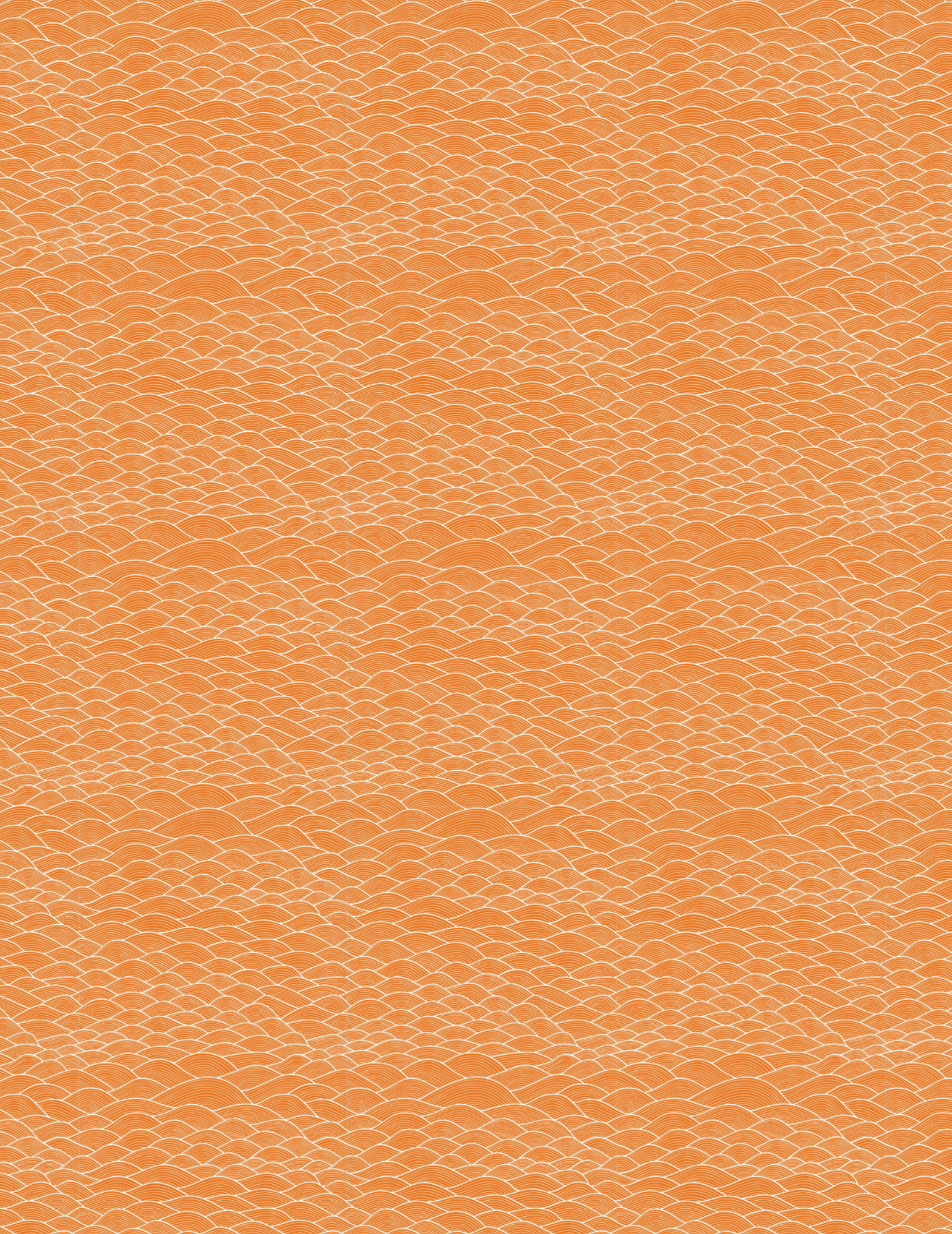
Win a copy of *What Katy Did* by Susan Coolidge and discover what her grand plans were and what mischief she gets up to! To enter, visit: storytimemagazine.com/win

WIN

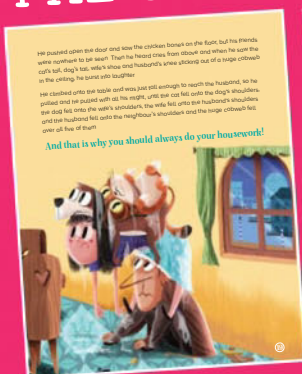
COLLECT THEM ALL!

Another magic mermaid tale is *The Mermaid of Zennor*, which we featured in Storytime Issue 4. Did you miss it? We still have a limited amount of Storytime issues on sale in our **Storytime Shop**, along with back-issue bundles. Get them while you can from storytimemagazine.com/shop





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